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**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS**

1. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in combination:

a main plate member having front, rear, upper and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a predetermined distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge thereof, with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate member; and yieldable friction material over substantially the major portions of the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

2. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient compressible material.

3. A clamping plate according to Claim 2 wherein the yieldable friction material is a compressible rubber-like material.

4. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 3 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

5. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 4 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main plate member.

6. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 5 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

7. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

8. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 7 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary plate to the main plate member.

9. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 8 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

10. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein  
the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

11. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein  
the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof  
tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly  
from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel  
to the main plate member.

12. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 11 wherein  
the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the  
yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum  
thickness of the nose piece.

13. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 12 wherein  
the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to  
the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads  
thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and  
the nose piece.

1           14. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein  
2           the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of  
3           the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the  
4           auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction  
5           material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed  
6           surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate  
7           to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable  
8           friction material on the main plate assembly.

9           15. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein  
10          the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear  
11          edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the  
12          rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the  
13          auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of  
14          the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose  
15          piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge  
16          thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

17          16. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 15 wherein  
18          the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

19          17. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 16 wherein  
20          the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof  
21          tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly  
22          from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel  
23          to the main plate member.

1           18. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 17 wherein  
2           the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the  
3           yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum  
4           thickness of the nose piece.

5           19. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 18 wherein  
6           the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to  
7           the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads  
8           thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and  
9           the nose piece.

10           20. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein  
11           the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of  
12           the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the  
13           auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction  
14           material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed  
15           surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate  
16           to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable  
17           friction material on the main plate assembly.

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19           21. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 20 wherein  
20           the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a  
21           plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one  
22           another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member  
23           and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main  
24           plate member.

1           22. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 21 wherein  
2           the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and  
3           1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

4           23. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein  
5           the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

6           24. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein  
7           the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate  
8           and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the  
9           auxiliary plate.

10           25. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 further  
11           including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary  
12           plate to the main plate member.

13           26. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein  
14           the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of  
15           the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the  
16           auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction  
17           material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed  
18           surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate  
19           to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable  
20           friction material on the main plate assembly.

1                   27. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and  
2                   out of engagement with a load including in combination:

3                   a main rectangular plate member having front, rear, upper  
4                   and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member  
5                   and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a short  
6                   distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially  
7                   from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge  
8                   thereof, the short distance being a minor portion of the distance  
9                   between the lower and upper edges of the main backing plate member  
10                  and with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate  
11                  member; and yieldable friction material attached to and covering  
12                  substantially the major portion of the auxiliary plate and the  
13                  portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary  
14                  plate.

15                 28. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein  
16                 the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient  
17                 compressible material.

18                 29. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 28 wherein  
19                 the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a  
20                 plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one  
21                 another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member  
22                 and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main  
23                 plate member.

1           30. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 29 wherein  
2           the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 3/8"  
3           and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

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5           31. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein  
6           the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear  
7           edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the  
8           rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the  
9           auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of  
10           the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose  
11           piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge  
12           thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

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14           32. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 31 wherein  
15           the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

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17           33. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 further  
18           including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary  
19           plate to the main plate member.

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21           34. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 33 wherein  
22           the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to  
23           the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads  
24           thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and  
25           the nose piece.

1                   35. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein  
2                   the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate  
3                   and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the  
4                   auxiliary plate.

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